

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY for Authority Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 851 to Sell Certain Real Property in Playa del Rey, California.

(U904G)

Application 99-05-029
(Filed May 12, 1999)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
SCHEDULING EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS**

I. Summary

Evidentiary Hearings (EH) are scheduled for July 18-20, 2005, at the Commission's Los Angeles courtroom, 320 West 4th Street, 5th Floor, Los Angeles, California.

II. Schedule

On May 10, 2005, a Prehearing Conference (PHC) took place to discuss the scheduling of the EHs and dates for the service of testimony. The parties agreed to the following dates:

June 20, 2005	Intervenor Testimony
July 8, 2005	Reply Testimony
July 15, 2005	Telephonic PHC
July 18, 2005	EHs begin at 10:00 a.m.

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) is the applicant in this proceeding and is instructed to coordinate a telephonic PHC for 10:00 a.m., Friday, July 15, 2005, for the purpose of discussing logistics for the EHs,

including such topics as the order of witnesses and the exchange of any documents not already included in the exchange of prepared testimony. Dates for the filing of post-hearing briefs will be set at the conclusion of EHs.

III. Scope of Evidentiary Hearings

On April 5, 2000, Commissioner Duque issued an Assigned Commissioner's Ruling (ACR) establishing the category and scope of the proceeding, pursuant to Rules 6(a)(3) and 6.3 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The ACR confirmed that the scope of the proceeding was "the question whether the Commission should authorize the sale of properties in Playa del Rey as requested by SoCalGas (Pub. Util. Code § 851).¹

The April 5, 2000, ACR referenced the application SoCalGas filed on May 12, 1999, to value and sell 36 unimproved lots, 34 in Playa del Rey and 2 in Marina del Rey and for approval of an additional 48 lots that had been sold between 1950 and 1998. In its application SoCalGas sought authority to sell these lots because they were not "necessary or useful" to the gas company's Playa del Rey gas storage facility. Twelve of these lots are over abandoned and capped oil or gas wells that were once used as observation or monitoring wells for the gas storage facility. The ACR also considered the protests filed by the Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA), The Utility Reform Network (TURN), and Grassroots Coalition, Friends of Animals, Ballona Wetlands Forever, Spirit of the Sage Council and Bernard Endres, as well as the reply to the protests filed by SoCalGas.

¹ Assigned Commissioner's ruling Establishing Category and Providing Scoping Memo in Compliance with Article 2.5, SB 960 Rules and Procedures, April 5, 2000, pp. 2-3.

On February 11, 2005, the Commission issued a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for consideration of the application to sell the 36 lots. Now that the CEQA review is completed, it is time to proceed with EHs on the non-environmental issues remaining in this proceeding.

IT IS RULED that:

1. Evidentiary Hearings are scheduled for July 18-20, 2005, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on July 18, 2005, at the Commission's Los Angeles courtroom, 320 West 4th Street, 5th Floor, Los Angeles, California.
2. Dates for the service of prepared testimony and the telephonic Prehearing Conference are as set forth in this ruling.
3. Parties are to follow the Hearing Room Ground Rules attached to this ruling.

Dated June 1, 2005, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CAROL A BROWN BY LTC

Carol A. Brown
Administrative Law Judge

Appendix A

Hearing Room Ground Rules

1. All prepared written testimony should be served on all appearances and state service on the service list, as well as on the Assigned Commissioner's office and on the Assigned ALJ. Prepared written testimony shall not be filed with the Commission's Docket Office.
2. Each party sponsoring an exhibit should, in the hearing room, provide two copies to the ALJ and one to the court reporter, and have copies available for distribution to parties present in the hearing room. If the exhibit is testimony that has already been served, the ALJ only needs one copy. The upper right hand corner of the exhibit cover sheet should be blank for the ALJ's exhibit stamp. If there is not sufficient room in the upper right hand corner for an exhibit stamp, please prepare a cover sheet for the exhibit. Parties should pre-mark exhibits when feasible.
3. As a general rule, if a party intends to introduce an exhibit in the course of cross-examination, the party should provide a copy of the exhibit to the witness and the witness' counsel before the witness takes the stand on the day the exhibit is to be introduced. Generally, a party is not required to give the witness an advance copy of the document if it is to be used for purposes of impeachment or to obtain the witness' spontaneous reaction.
4. Generally, corrections to an exhibit should be made in advance and not orally from the witness stand. Corrections should be made in a timely manner by providing new exhibit pages on which corrections appear. The original text to be deleted should be lined out with the substitute or added text shown above or inserted. Each correction page should be marked with the word "revised" and the revision date.
5. Individual chapters of large, bound volumes of testimony may be marked with separate exhibit numbers, as convenient.
6. Partial documents or excerpts from documents must include a title page or first page from the source document; excerpts from lengthy documents should include a table of contents page covering the excerpted material.
7. Motions to strike prepared testimony must be made at least two working days before the witness appears, to allow the ALJ time for review of the arguments and relevant testimony.

8. Notices, compliance filings, or other documents may be marked as reference items. They need not be served on all parties. Items will be marked using letters, not numbers.
9. Food and beverages are allowed IF you dispose of containers and napkins properly.

(END OF APPENDIX A)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Scheduling Evidentiary Hearings on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated June 1, 2005, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ ELIZABETH LEWIS
Elizabeth Lewis

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.